April 3, 1958
Fairbury Blade Newspaper

LACC Founded In 1920

The L. A. C. C. or the Lodemia Avoca Community Club was organized in 1920 at the home of Mrs. Jerome Ruff. The club was organized to be a community club with ladies belonging who lived in and around Lodemia and in Avoca Township. At first they planned to have just twenty-four members two for entertaining each month. The daughters were associate members. In several years the membership increased and at the present time there are thirty-two members. Mrs. Rose Morrison was its first president, Margaret Ruff, first vice-president and Avis Masterson its first secretary.

Mrs. Nellie Ruff, deceased, was a charter member and had kept all but four of the club books from which we obtained a lot of information.

Mrs. Nell Sparks is the only charter member who is still active in the club. Our club meets every third Thursday of the month with many Fairs held that month.

Charter members were:
Rose Morrison

Margaret Ruff Nellie Ruff
Avis Masterson Amelia Morrison
Stella Tavener
Bertah Scherr Bowker
Nellie McIntyre Ida Powell
Anna Tucker Laura Bemis
Anna Menton Kate Shafer
Mrs. Roy Smith
Anna Jacobs
Lucy Law
Margaret De Moss

This list may not be complete as they had no club books for several years.

The club was organized to be a social club and still is. Although we try to help with things in the community, such as the hospital, Fairbury and Pontiac, Red Cross, T. B. seals. Boxes are packed and sent to sons of members in the service at Christmas time.

Picnics for members and their families is an annual affair. One of the first banquets of the club was held at the home of Mrs. E. F. Law with eighty-four in attendance.

The club colors are lavender and white and their flower is the carnation

Past Presidents and the years they served:

1920-1929—Rose Morrison
1929-1931—Nell Sparks

1931-1932—Phoebe Sparks
1932-1934—Nellie Ruff
1934-1936—Avis Masterson
1936-1937—Irene Bentley
1937-1938—Nellie Ruff
1938-1940—Tillie Green
1940-1942—Lorena Tavener
1942-1944—Nola Ellinger
1944-1946—Ethel Ziller
1946-1947—Aldine Stivers
1947-1948—Frances Holsclaw
1948-1949—Frances Maley
1949-1950—Nellie Mae Smith
1950-1951—Cathryn Frisby
1951-1953—Cora Dart
1953-1955—Virginia Bressner
1955-1957—Lorena Tavener

The present officers elected in April of 1957 are:

President—Olive Stephens
Vice President—Cathryn Frisby
Secretary—Delma Freed
Treasurer—Janet Metz.

The following poem was in the front of the 1924-25 book.

THE HOUSEKEEPERS CREED

I believe housekeeping is and should be interesting work, and that the majority of women would enjoy it more if they had the opportunity to know more of its science; that it must be considered elevating—the highest art—and not a brainless occupation.

A club song was written by Laura Bemis to the tune of "Sweet Adeline" and appeared in the 1926-27 book. These are the words:

L.A.C.C. L.A.C.C.
To us, you'll always, always be,
Our love sincere, we'll give to thee;
You're the darling of our hearts.

L.A.C.C.
Dear club of ours, sweet club of ours,
There's lots we'll do
With all our powers.
And when we shine
Won't that be fine?
You're the sweetest thing
We know, L.A.C.C.

L.A.C.C. L.A.C.C.
We surely hope
You're here to stay
We think that you
Do surely pay;
And we love you more each day,

L.A.C.C.

Dear members now,
Each take a vow.
To stand for her
Each daily hour,
We'll all do good
Thats in our power
And we'll always want to be
L.A.C.C.

The Fidelis Sunday School Class of the First Presbyterian Church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary Saturday evening. Thirty-nine attended the festivities at the Honegger House which featured a three course dinner served at tables decorated with pyramids of gold colored mums with a gold embossed FIFTY on each pyramid. Corsages for each of the guests were attached to the pyramid and to a golden streamer with which each member drew out her corsage. Golden candles lighted the tables and individual golden nut cups were used.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Anna Marie Harrison, pastor's wife. Mrs. Bertha Zeh, president of the class, gave the official welcome and expressed thanks to the committee. Mrs. Gladys Patterson was general chairman; Mrs. Grace Masterson, Mrs. Ann Schlipf and Mrs. Eunice Pratt were in charge of arrangements and decorations.

Mrs. Helen Kirks formerly of Fairbury and now living at Sheldon served as toastmistress for the evening; she was presented by Mrs. Zeh.

Two former teachers, Mrs. Addie Huette and Mrs. Elizabeth Agard, and several members have died, Mrs. Eunice Pratt read a memorial poem and the list of deceased members: Mrs. Maybelle Ramsey Reynolds, Mrs. Hazel Brady McHatton, Mrs. Flo Vestile Voris, Mrs. Esther Williams Wharton, Mrs. Lottie Ricketts Ramseyer, Mrs. Marguerite Camp Vanshoik, Mrs. Mae Horine Vail and Mrs. Hazel Jessup Thomas.

The current teacher, Mrs. Louise Borngasser, who gave a short resume of the class studies expressed her hope for a still larger attendance.

Toastmistress Dirks then introduced Mrs. Hazel Brown Strick of Chicago and Mrs. Una Schmidt who gave histories of the class. Mrs. Strick substituted for Mrs. Emma Burt who was ill.

Mrs. Strick told of the first twenty years of the class; how the members planted potatoes, collected all kinds of papers and even baled the papers, in short, did anything that would show a profit.

Mrs. Schmidt told of later years; about The Fidelis Cook Book and cited many of the recipes which were in it, of the annual auction sales (some of the members yielding to the excitement of the moment have raised their own bids; and of the boxes that are sent to the Mary Holmes Seminary, a negro college at West Point, Mississippi. She had visited the college in 1951 and gave a brief history of it. Her closing lines were Henry Ford's and are an apt summation of the first fifty years of the Fidelis Class.

Coming together is the beginning,
Thinking together is Unity,
Keeping together is progress,
And working together is success.

Several old pictures were passed around the tables and each member had been asked to bring her baby picture. These were all numbered and then passed for attempts at identification.

Out-of-towners in attendance were Mrs. Helen Voorhees Dirks of Sheldon, Mrs. Elsie Householder Rinkenberger of Bradford, Mrs. Hazel Brown Strick of Chicago, Mrs. Abbie Faw Ford of Benson, Mrs. Edith Fry Chenoweth of Pontiac and Miss Fan Reinhardt of Peoria.

Mrs. Ann Schlipf, secretary, read letters from members who were unable to attend; namely, Miss Lillian Vail of Virginia, Mrs. Anna Householder Hoey of San Antonio, Texas and Miss Nelle Carrithers of Meadows.

LACC members posed for picture at home of Mrs. Stella Tavener in 1926. Left to right, they are, front row, Anna Tucker, Anna Menton, Nettie Ziegenhorn and son Johnny, Nell Sparks, Margaret Ruff holding Lois Ruff, and Orel Ruff standing by her.

Second row: Betty Callaby, Nellie Ruff, Margaret DeMoss, Amelia Morrison, Mallie Bentley.

Third row: Lorine Wink, Sena Fortna, Phoebe Sparks and Dean. Fourth row: Bertha Scherr Bowker, unidentified, Gertrude Ziller, Nola Ellinger, Stella Tavener, Rose Morrison. The two children on the left are Mary Ellen Wink Goold and Charles Scherr.

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Photo enhanced by ChatGPT AI program.